KIM IL SUNG

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF KOREA

1955

KIM IL SUNG

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF KOREA

SPEECH DELIVERED AT THE CELEBRATION MEETING OF THE CITY OF PYONYGANG

August 14, 1955

MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND
PROPAGANDA, D.P.R.K.

Published by
The "New Korea" Press
Pyongyang, 1955

(All rise. Loud, prolonged applause.)

Dear comrades!

Today we celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of the August 15 Liberation, the most significant national holiday, amidst the magnificent creative labour struggle for the post-war rehabilitation and construction of the national economy and for the peaceful unification and independence of the fatherland.

Ten years ago the valiant Soviet Army liberated our nation from the chains of distressing colonial enslavement which had lasted nearly forty years, wiping out the heinous Japanese imperialist colonial rulers from the soil of our fatherland. From that moment on the Korean people have come to enjoy genuine national freedom and independence and have been able to enter the path of creating a new history for the democratic development of their fatherland.

The Soviet people not only liberated us from the colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists, but also have been constantly rendering material and moral aid for the prosperity and development of us Korean people.

Greeting the Tenth Anniversary of the August 15 Liberation, the significant national holiday, today, in the name of the entire Korean people, the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of our Republic, I express the deepest gratitude and pay the highest tribute to the great Soviet people, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the government of the U.S.S.R.

and the Soviet Army, our liberators, helpers and true friends. *(All rise. Prolonged applause.)*

Next, I express the deepest gratitude and pay the highest tribute to the Communist Party of China, the government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese People's Volunteers composed of the best sons and daughters of the Chinese people as well as to the great Chinese people, who had waged a prolonged, joint struggle shoulder to shoulder with the Korean people in the anti-Japanese armed struggle against Japanese imperialism, and, in particular, aided us with blood under the banner of resisting American aggression and aiding Korea by dispatching the Volunteers to the Korean front in the most critical moment of the struggle of the Korean people against the U.S. imperialists and have been continuously rendering us enormous aid in the post-war rehabilitation and construction. *(All rise. Prolonged applause.)*

I extend warm congratulations to the entire Korean people, who waged a prolonged struggle for recovering their fatherland from the long Japanese imperialist rule, have successfully carried out the honourable, historical task for constructing the democratic self-independent state under the guidance of the Workers' Party of Korea from the August 15 Liberation till the present, and, in particular, safeguarded the freedom and independence of their fatherland from the encroachment of the international reactionary forces with the U.S. imperialists as their ringleaders, while devotedly struggling for the post-war rehabilitation and construction of the national economy and for the peaceful unification and independence of the fatherland. *(All rise. Prolonged applause.)*

I

Dear comrades!

Under the Japanese imperialist colonial rule the

Korean people had no political rights and freedom whatsoever and were subjected to double or treble — feudal, capitalistic and colonial — oppression and exploitation.

Korea's national economy was turned into a source of profiteering by the Japanese imperialists; the culture, education, language and customs of the Korean nation were totally trampled upon and hundreds of thousands of our patriots were slaughtered or imprisoned by the cruel police terroism of the Japanese imperialists. Indeed, the Korean people were in the danger of national ruin then.

The Soviet Army rescued our nation from this danger of national ruin. The Korean people, freed from the danger of national ruin, renewed their resolution to fight for the freedom and independence of the nation and for the future prosperity of the nation without leading ever again such a slavish life as in the past.

The liberated Korean people were confronted with the revolutionary tasks of completely shattering the colonial administrative machinery of the vanquished Japanese imperialism and its remnant forces, of founding a new, people's social and economic system and building up self-independent state on the democratic basis.

The enormous revolutionary forces and activeness of the masses of people, which radically rose and grew following liberation, organized the people's committees, the organs of the people's power, in every nook and corner of Korea, curbing the reactionary forces such as pro-Japanese elements, national traitors and landlords.

The working class, playing the leading role in the people's regime, entered the path of carrying out the task of anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution, strengthening the united front with all the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal circles through the solid alliance with the peasantry.

However, the U.S. imperialist aggressors, from the first day they were stationed in the southern part of our fatherland, began to pursue openly their colonial policy of robbery. They dissolved in all places the people's committees, which had been organized by the free will of the Korean people, and revived the colonial administrative machinery; they organized the puppet government in South Korea and mustered all the anti-popular reactionary forces such as the pro-American, pro-Japanese and national traitors into it. The U.S. imperialist occupationists and reactionary puppets came out dead against the construction of a democratic, unified, independent state of Korea, suppressing by the bayonets the patriotic, democratic forces and all the democratic elements in South Korea.

Thus our fatherland began to be artificially divided into two parts and fundamentally different conditions were created in the northern and southern parts of our fatherland.

Proceeding from such state of affairs that was created in the fatherland, our Party outlined the tasks of founding a revolutionary democratic base which is the basis of the unification of the fatherland, taking advantage of the favourable conditions provided by the Soviet Army in North Korea, and of strengthening it politically, economically and militarily, and organized and mobilized all the patriotic forces in the carrying out of these tasks.

These tasks set by our Party fully corresponded to our national interests and were the vital demands of the entire people.

The people's regime undertook various democratic reforms under the guidance of our Party, fully enjoying the unreserved support of the people of various walks of life. By executing the land reform it liquidated the landlord class in North Korea and made the toiling peasants become the masters of land, their centuries-old desire.

Thanks to this the feudal relation of exploiting the peasants was extinguished, the material and cultural life of the peasants was radically improved and our rural economy began to traverse a path of constant improvement.

The people's regime also confiscated and nationalized all the industry, banks and means of transport which were in the hands of the Japanese imperialists, the pro-Japanese and national traitors, thus depriving them of their economic foothold. By making these economic fields which are the backbone of the economy of the state the possession of the entire people, the relation in production and the relation in labour in our country underwent fundamental change; the working class which has become master of the state came to labour not for the exploiting classes but for the sake of themselves and for the fatherland and people and became able to enhance labour productivity, which is the most important in the social development, to a higher level by displaying boundless creative power and initiative and waging emulations for increased production.

The people's regime undertook a series of important democratic measures also in the realm of people's rights and social life in various fields.

All these policies strengthened and developed the political, economic and cultural relations between towns and villages in our country on a new basis and further consolidated the material foundation of the worker-peasant alliance.

The manual and office workers were ensured the rights to labour, rest and learning; the social and political status of women was fundamentally improved.

Also in the realm of education, culture and arts, the educational and cultural system of colonial enslavement was abolished and the people's education and arts, national in form and democratic in content, began to develop rapidly.

As a result of the new political, economic and cultural life that was achieved in the northern part of our Republic and the steady work of Marxist-Leninist ideological education of our Party, a new, advanced ideological consciousness and moral phase were formed and developed in our people. The ideological unity of our people, their patriotism based on proletarian internationalism, their boundless loyalty and devotion to the Party and government, their sense of honour toward labour and their creativeness — all these are the main characteristics of the changes that have been made in the political consciousness and moral life of our people in the past ten years.

The founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in 1948 was the most epoch-making event in the history of our country. In connection with the founding of the People's Republic the Soviet Army withdrew from the northern part of the Republic and our Republic established diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and a number of democratic countries and became a proud member of the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism.

Enormous development had been made in various realms of the construction of a new life in the five years before the outbreak of the Fatherland Liberation War.

By the end of 1949 the major branches of the national economy of our Republic had considerably surpassed the level of the pre-liberation year of 1944 in the volume of productions and particularly the educational, cultural and public health establishments had been expanded by several times; the material and cultural life of the people had also been by far improved in connection with this.

This situation in the northern part of our Republic could not but exert inspiring influences upon the people of the southern part and it added fuel to the brutal hatred of the U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rhee traitors. The U.S. imperialists and Syngman Rhee traitors further intensified their fascist police rule for suppressing the democratic de-

mand of the people and the people's resistance movement against the puppet regime in South Korea and, at the same time, unleashed their long prepared armed aggression against the northern part of our Republic in July, 1950, with a view to seizing the northern part of our Republic and enslaving all our people.

The three-year Fatherland Liberation War against the U.S. armed aggressors and their running dogs was the most grave trial for our people. The Korean people, who experienced in person for nearly forty years what the imperialist colonial slavery was, rose up as one in the just struggle for defending the freedom and independence of the fatherland and the people's democratic system, which guarantees freedom and independence, with an unflagging resolution never again to suffer humiliating colonial slavery. In this arduous struggle our people and their valorous armed forces, under the guidance of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of our Republic, stood with credit before the hard test by displaying unprecedented heroism and patriotic devotion on the front and in the rear.

As is well known, the international imperialist allied forces comprising 16 nations headed by the U.S. imperialists, suffered a shameful defeat on the Korean front and were obliged to sign the armistice agreement.

This was a great historical victory of the Korean people. This victory was scored by the lofty patriotism and heroism of all our people and by the vitality of the people's democratic system, which is the source of boundless strength of our people, and by the organizational and leading role of the Workers' Party of Korea. This was also a victory of the entire camp of peace, democracy and Socialism and, at the same time, this showed how mighty were the forces of the peoples who united under the banner of proletarian internationalism. Indeed, the victory we scored in the past Fatherland Liberation War was possible only thanks to the

active support and aid of the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China and the People's Democracies, and this internationalist aid constituted the major factor that ensured our victory.

In particular, it was a new example of the proletarian internationalist aid that the great Chinese people unfolded the movement of resisting American aggression and aiding Korea and aided us with blood by dispatching their valiant People's Volunteers, thus ensuring our common victory.

The immortal exploits achieved by the Korean People's Army and the Chinese People's Volunteers in the common struggle against the U.S. armed aggressors and their running dogs as well as the internationalist aid rendered to us by the peoples of the fraternal countries will always remain on the brilliant pages of the annals of the Fatherland Liberation War of our people. (*Applause.*)

The result of the Korean war showed that the days when the imperialists conquered and looted the small nations as they wished are already gone into the past and that now each nation can defend its national independence and freedom if it courageously fight to the last with arms in hand against the aggressors.

Through the war our people were further tempered, their trust in the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of our Republic was further deepened and their ideological and political solidarity was further strengthened.

In connection with the armistice our people were confronted with the urgent and important tasks of rapidly rehabilitating and developing the national economy that had been destroyed by the war and stabilizing and enhancing the material and cultural life of the people.

Our entire Korean people, in response to the call of the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of our Republic, rose up as one in the work of rehabilitation and construction for fulfilling the Three-Year Plan of the post-

war national economy with an upsurge of enthusiasm as in the period of the war.

The Three-Year Plan envisages the recovery of the livelihood of the people which underwent severe destruction and ruin in the war, restoration of the national economy to the pre-war level for consolidating the economic foundation, which guarantees the unification and independence of our country, and the creation of the basic conditions for gradually effecting the socialist industrialization of the country in the future by eliminating the colonial lopsidedness in industry.

The plan for 1954, the first year of the Three-Year Plan for the rehabilitation and construction of the national economy, was successfully fulfilled thanks to the creative labour and patriotic devotion of our people and the plan for this year, 1955, the decisive year in the Three-Year Plan, is also being successfully fulfilled.

The results achieved by our people in the work of post-war rehabilitation and construction in the two years following the armistice are as follows:

The capital investment in the industrial construction of the first half of 1955 grew to 4.7 times that of the first half of 1953. Thus the number of large and medium industrial enterprises in the fields of machinery, mining, iron production, building materials, textile and others, which have been commissioned in the two years since the armistice after being newly constructed or rehabilitated completely or partially, reached approximately 290.

The total industrial output of state and cooperative organizations in the first half of 1955 increased to 2.5 times as compared with the first half of 1953.

In the branch of heavy industry, electric production in the first half of 1955 enhanced to 3.4 times that in the first half of 1953 and coal to sixfold; in the branch of machine industry, metal cutting machines, fraction press, engines for ships, direct current generators and other new

machine products that could not be produced in previous time are being turned out.

These, indeed, are epoch-making achievements in the industrial progress of our country.

In the branch of light industry, the production of cotton fabrics in the first half of 1955 doubled that in the corresponding period of 1953, silk fabrics quadrupled, fish catch expanded to 3.3 times.

In the development of agriculture, no small accomplishments have been attained. Most of the arable land deteriorated or washed during the war has been reclaimed and an addition of some forty thousand *jungbo* newly put under irrigation, thanks to the new constructions of numbers of irrigation systems, dykes and water pumping stations.

One more phase of advancement in the rural economy of our country that has made another step of forward in the post-war period is that agricultural producers' cooperatives have been extensively organized.

The number of agricultural producers' cooperatives which are organized on the principle of voluntary participation of the peasants numbers over ten thousands and that of farm households included in them is about 44 per cent of the entire farm households.

Such a fact can be explained by the heightened desire of the peasants for collective labour organization and for joining cooperatives because the superiority and favourableness of the agricultural producers' cooperatives, which were organized on experimental basis in some localities during the war time, were shown to the peasants and because the necessity of national utilization of scant labour and draft animals rose in the farm villages of our country after the armistice.

The number of machine hiring depots rose to 2.6 times and that of tractors to 1.7 times, and the draft animal stations were extensively organized in many places.

The capital investment made by the government of our Republic in the first half of 1955 for the rehabilitation and development of rural economy augmented to 3.6 times compared with the same period of 1953.

Big strides were made also in the field of railway transport. The railway haulage of the first half of 1955 topped by 84 per cent of the first half of 1953 and the average monthly haulage at present exceeds that of 1949, the pre-war year. Due to the rapid growth of the production of mass consumer goods, three price reductions on daily necessaries had been enforced in a short space of time following the war. Because of this, the price index of state and cooperative trades in the first half of 1955 was lowered by approximately 55 per cent as compared with that of the first half of 1953, and the gains made by the people were more than 11 billion *won*. By the fourth price cut since the war, which has been enforced from August 1, our working people will enjoy the benefit of 3.4 billion *won*.

More residences of upwards of 1 million equare meters for factory and office workers in our Republic are built. The real wages of the factory and office workers likewise markedly rose.

The government of our Republic extended huge state aid to the peasants, too. During the war, the peasants were exempted from the delivery of tax in kind in arrears, bank loans and fees on public utilities which they owed to the state, and were provided with a fund of hundreds of millions of *won*, necessary seed grain, foodstuff and chemical fertilizer as a help in their farming. Furthermore, the rate of tax in kind was revised not long ago in the direction of diminishing a part of it.

Such measures are the graphic expression of the consistent solicitude of the Party and the government for the improved livelihood of the peasants.

No little successes have been scored in the sphere of culture and health of our Republic in the post-war period.

Even in the hard years of the Fatherland Liberation War, the educational system of our Republic had been kept so secure as to enable schools of all grades to carry on their activities, and as a result of the armistice network of schools of various grades have promptly been extended and strengthened.

Thus, at the present time, in our Republic, more than 4,800 elementary schools and secondary schools, 72 technical and various other special schools, and 16 higher educational institutions are functioning.

Health facilities for the people have also been considerably restored and expanded. In the two years since the ceasefire, the number of hospitals and clinics has amounted to over 400, with an increase of about 49 per cent in the number of doctors working in them. In this connection, special mention must be made of the fact that our brotherly countries have been directly giving our people tremendous aid in the medical field, sending their hospital and medical workers.

In the rehabilitation of cities great work has been done. In regard to this field, it must be pointed out that not only have the entire army of our construction workers made devoted efforts but our office workers and students and servicemen also have borne a great measure of their share. In the past two years since the armistice, we have built a good number of dwelling houses, schools, hospitals, office buildings, theatres, cinema houses and other buildings.

The above-mentioned are the rough summary of the achievements our people have carried out in their rehabilitation and construction work in the post-war period. We, however, should not indulge in self-satisfaction with them. We are to continue our tense fight to fulfil and overfulfil the three-year rehabilitation and construction plan for our national economy, on the morrow of the fulfilment of which we should still keep on working for the further development to even higher level of our national economy.

The Central Committee of our Party, contemplating the successful conclusion of the Three-Year Plan which is to be completed by the end of next year, is now discussing the matter on the fundamental lines of the five-year plan for the national economy scheduled to start in 1957.

In the five-year national economic plan it will be envisaged that the foundation of the socialist industrialization be fully laid and the industrial and agricultural output be sharply increased by creating new technical conditions in all fields of the national economy and that considerations continuously be given to the production of consumer goods and the enhancement of people's living in particular.

By so doing, we shall be able to further strengthen economically the democratic base for the peaceful unification and independence of our fatherland.

Needless to say, the carrying out of this task is no easy matter.

We have considerable difficulties ahead.

Firstly, we have suffered such a severe loss and destruction, ranging from the individual life of our citizens to the life of the whole nation, from the bestial atrocities of the American imperialists in the war, that we at present have to rebuild almost everything. The scope of our post-war rehabilitation and construction, therefore, may well be of vast dimensions.

Secondly, the rehabilitation and construction work presently undertaken by us is not one of restoring the branches of the devastated national economy to their former position but one of reconstructing them on the basis of new technique as well as newly establishing some branches of industry non-existent before. Along with the work of our post-war rehabilitation and construction, a tremendous essential change is being made in the principal economic fields of our country, namely, in industry and agriculture. It goes without saying that our factories and mills are being equipped with new up-to-date technique, not with the

old technique left over by the Japanese imperialists; this is also clearly demonstrated by the fact that our towns are putting on an entirely new appearance with up-to-date buildings for the most part taking the place of old out-of-date ones as you can see for yourselves. In connection with this huge construction work, considerable difficulties arise for us to meet the great need of various materials.

Thirdly, we are short of our national specialists in technique possessed of modern technique and skill. In the days of Japanese rule, Koreans could not afford to get any training in technique. That is why there were very few of our national specialists in technique.

Although we have brought up not a small number of our national specialists in technique during the decade since the liberation, yet a period of ten years has been a very short space of time for bringing up such a number of technicians and skilled workers as needed for us today. To make matters worse, we lost a considerable number of technical experts and skilled workers in the war. Consequently, in contrast to our industry and agriculture growing apace today, we have a big shortage of technical experts.

But these difficulties are the ones associated with the rapid growth of our economy, which it is possible for us to surmount.

In order to break down and tide over all those difficulties, the government of our Republic has taken, and is putting into practice, a series of measures.

There are also not a few defects in our work.

We have, while carrying on our enormous long-term construction work, such phenomena as to reveal desultoriness and, in some cases, fretfulness; we are as yet lacking an ability of close calculations, planning and foresight as well as considerations for improving the quality of our work. Moreover, many defects are found in searching for, mobilizing and utilizing unused materials and internal re-

sources, in saving on expenditure and labour, in the reasonable use of facilities, and in protecting, safekeeping and controlling state and social properties.

With a view to making our fatherland richer, stronger and lovelier, and enabling our people to live in affluence, we should do much more work and strive still harder.

We must continue to prospect and exploit the abundant resources possessed by our country so as to make an effective use of them for the rehabilitation and development of our Republic as well as for the improvement of the people's living, and we should continue to pay heed to the development of heavy industries which constitute the foundation for the general development of our national economy so that we may gradually effect socialist industrialization in our country.

The industrialization of our country is to be effected taking fully into account those corresponding and pertinent factors to our economic conditions as well as the economic relations established organically with our brotherly countries, and light industries should be simultaneously developed to increase continuously the necessaries of the life of the people.

We have to pay particular attention to the development of agriculture. It is because food is of an immense significance in the economic construction and because given food in abundance solution of all problems can easily be achieved. Lenin once said, "food means Socialism."

In some parts of our Republic, there was a slight shortage of food owing to last year's damages by floods and frosts, but we should see to it that our people shall be subject to no more shortage of provisions in future.

Taking all this into account, the government of our Republic, for the second half of the current year alone, has decided upon an increased appropriation of more than one billion *won* beyond the sum allocated at the beginning

of this year for the development of agriculture, and upon a preferential supply of the materials required for the irrigation works.

Next year more funds and labour are contemplated to be invested in farming; also in the five-year plan for our national economy to be drawn up later, vast irrigation systems and water conservancy works, and expansion of the area of reclaimed land will be undertaken, and an increased production of farming machines and a series of other essential measures will be planned.

The most important thing in the socialist reorganization of farming in our country is to strengthen the Party and state guidance over the agricultural cooperatives, in which stress should not be placed only upon their numerical growth, but those cooperatives already organized should be further consolidated organizationally and economically so as to improve their quality.

By so doing, we should ensure a rapid progress of our agriculture, and further raise the yields of grain crops so that we may bring about a rich supply of food in our country in the near future.

With a view to achieving a speedy advance of the national economy and the betterment of the people's living, the entire working people should devote in all fields their patriotic enthusiasm, creative labour, and their talents to the steady raising of labour productivity, the improving of manufactured goods, the setting up of a strict economy system, the cutting down of the costs of construction and manufactures and the fulfilling and over-fulfilling of their quotas.

With a view to protecting like the apple of the eye, and safeguarding from various sorts of encroachment of the enemy of the people, the state and social properties which form the material foundation of our Republic, we should ever more enhance our revolutionary vigilance.

In this way, an uninterrupted path will be paved of fresh development and improvement for the national economy of our country in all its spheres in the near future; material and cultural life of the people will be highly improved; the alliance between workers and peasants — the groundwork of our society — will be further cemented; the building of socialism in our country will be promoted; the base for a peaceful unification of our homeland will be further consolidated.

II

Dear comrades!

Today, as we sum up the glorious achievements made by our people in the struggle for the prosperity and development of the fatherland during the past ten years following the liberation, we can not pass over in silence the present-day situation in South Korea under the occupation of the U.S. imperialists.

The whole of our Korean Peninsula was liberated from the yoke of the Japanese imperialist rule on the same day and at the same hour. However, under the international circumstances then prevailing, South Korea, with the 38th Parallel as the borderline, was unfortunately turned into the area where the U.S. army landed.

With the aim of perpetuating the occupation of South Korea, the U.S. imperialists set up the South Korean puppet regime and have pursued a rigorous, rapacious policy, encouraged the division of Korea into North and South Korea and obstructed the establishment of a democratic unified state in Korea. Thus our fellow countrymen, brothers and sisters in South Korea again were forced to undergo hardships for ten agonizing years under the colonial enslavement of the U.S. imperialists and the tyranny of the South Korean puppet regime.

In South Korea, during the past ten years the colonial subordination and lopsidedness of the national economy

were further aggravated and national industry went headlong towards ruin on account of the relentless, colonial, rapacious policy of the U.S. imperialists and the anti-popular, treasonous policy of the Syngman Rhee puppets; the working people have led their lives under miserable circumstances owing to merciless exploitation and suppression.

The war in Korea ignited by the U.S. imperialists and the Syngman Rhee traitors wrought further havoc to the South Korean economy.

Factories, enterprises and rural economy of South Korea suffered severe destruction during the war. However, up until this day, two years after the war, no rehabilitation project of factories worth mentioning is to be seen in South Korea.

More deplorable is the fact that the production of goods that have direct bearing upon the livelihood of people sharply decreased in 1954 as compared with that at the time right after the armistice.

The output of coal in the first half of 1954 was reduced by 28 per cent as compared with that in the corresponding period of 1953; rubber shoes to 68 per cent; soap to 37 per cent.

According to a report of *Seoul Shinmun,* the bulk of the South Korean textile industry closed down in the one year of 1954.

After the signing of the armistice the United States promised South Korea to give an "aid" of two hundred million dollars in the year of 1954, and 60 per cent of it for the investment in capital construction. This promise failed to materialize, however, and only an insignificant amount of goods was shipped into South Korea, the most part of which being the U.S. surplus goods.

The United States tried to create the impression that it was committing itself to give no small economic aid to

South Korea also in 1955. However, only an equivalent of five per cent of what they promised had been brought into South Korea in the form of surplus consumer goods up to the end of last February, that is, four months before the termination of the aid year.

It is obvious that the U.S. monopolists who are interested in making investment and selling surplus goods in South Korea are utterly indifferent about the rehabilitation of the South Korean national industry.

Although Syngman Rhee attempted to draw up a so-called "rehabilitation program" both in 1954 and 1955 in order to deceive the public opinion after the war, this "rehabilitation program" was devoid of any feasibility like a "fancy coloured cake" as termed by the South Korean press, for ninety per cent of the fund for the program was based upon the so-called "aid."

In the post-war period, the farm villages in South Korea are in a further deplorable condition.

Pauperization of the rural economy and class disintegration in farm villages are more aggravated due to the fraudulent agrarian reform of the puppet government, and the livelihood of the peasants is extremely difficult owing to the want of foodstuff, exploitation by usurers and onerous, miscellaneous taxation of the puppet government.

According to South Korean official data, the acreage of arable land in South Korea gradually dwindled after the agrarian reform — arable acreage in 1953 diminished by more than 15 per cent as compared with 1945 — and accordingly the yield also dropped. In the crop year of 1954-1955, it is said that there is a shortage of some 4,300,000 *suk* of grain at least.

The number of foodless farm households as of the end of April, 1955, was approximately 460,000 and the debt of the South Korean peasants for the duration from January to November, 1954, averaged 9,000 *hwan* per household and about 20 billion *hwan* in total.

Indeed, under such circumstances tens of thousands of peaasnts left farm villages giving up farming in 1954 alone, for they could not make their living in farm villages. Medium and small merchants and industrialists as well as craftsmen likewise are going bankrupt one on the heels of the other and are being incorporated into the army of unemployed, on account of onerous taxes, influx of surplus goods of the American and Japanese monopolists and lack of fund.

The ruin of industry and agriculture and bankruptcy of medium and small merchants and industrialists as well as craftsmen in South Korea are producing a huge army of unemployed.

The number of unemployed, according to a report of a South Korean news agency in February, this year, runs up to around two million and they are now roaming about the streets to get jobs.

Whereas in North Korea, as mentioned above, four price reductions have already been effected since the armistice, prices are steadily soaring in South Korea. The retail price index in South Korea as of December, 1954 was above 211 per cent on an average as compared with July, 1953.

The severe, colonial plundering policy of the American imperialists, and the anti-popular policy and maniacal arms drive of the Syngman Rhee traitors are basically responsible for such a state of affairs in South Korea.

The American imperialists and their South Korean puppets concluded the so-called "Korea-U.S. Mutual Defence Pact" in August, 1953, a few days after the signing of the armistice agreement and are frantically preparing to provoke a new war in South Korea with a war-cry of "march North to unify."

They are reinforcing the arms of the puppet army by introducing a tremendous amount of weapons into South Korea in violation of the armistice agreement, are forming

new divisions through forcible conscription of the South Korean youth and students and are disbursing enormous fund, not for rehabilitation of national economy or improvement of the people's living, but for starting again the sanguinary fratricidal war.

Over 72 per cent of the total budget of South Korea for 1954 was a direct military outlay.

In face of the stringent oppression by the police and terrorists in South Korea, the resistance movement of the South Korean people in opposition to the colonial policy of the American imperialists and the anti-popular policy of their puppets is surging all the more.

South Korean workers launched a strike struggle on more than one hundred occasions in the period from January to September, 1954 alone.

Participating in them were the dockers in Pusan, Kunsan and Masan as well as upwards of seven thousand workers of the "Taihan Coal Company" — tens of thousands in all.

Peasants are waging all types of struggles such as the struggle against paying taxes.

Even according to the announcement of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the puppet government, the grain collected up to the 16th of February, this year, on the autumn crop of 1954 was a mere 56 per cent of their plan, on account of the opposition of the South Korean peasants to the "rice collection."

In 1954, 31 per cent of the entire eligible South Korean youth dodged the draft in opposition to the forcible conscription into the puppet army and recently eighty per cent of the graduates from higher educational institutions opposed and shunned it.

This is the real state of affairs in South Korea today.

The southern half of our Republic has gone through the road of bankruptcy of national economy, colonialization and war provocation; it will meet more miserable fate in the

future unless the unification of the fatherland is realized soon.

Dear comrades!

The division of territory and split of the nation have become an unendurable obstacle in the general development of our country — a single nation — and caused the people in South Korea to suffer incalculable tribulation and poverty, thus constituting a great misfortune to the whole of the Korean people.

Therefore, attaining the peaceful unification of the fatherland represents the greatest task of us Korean people. All our work at present must be subordinated to this noble end.

We have exerted all our sincere efforts and struggle in the ten years since the liberation for the peaceful unification of the fatherland, and the struggle passed through various, arduous stages. The history of all our struggle since the liberation, indeed, has been the history of the struggle for the unification and independence of our fatherland.

The decision of the Moscow Conference of the Three Foreign Ministers on the Korean question which was held in December, 1945, was a valid decision to ensure the conditions for the unification of Korea and her peaceful, future progress under the internal circumstances of that time. In spite of the sincere efforts and just proposals of the Soviet side and the ardent struggle of our people for implementing the decision, the work of the U.S.S.R.-U.S. Joint Commission was disrupted on two occasions and the decision of the Moscow Three Ministers Conference was not realized, due to the reactionary stand of the American ruling circles and perfidious acts of the Syngman Rhee clique.

Under such circumstances, our Party and the government of our Republic did not spare their energy and efforts for the solution of the question of the Korean unification by

the Koreans themselves, by means of negotiations and mutual understanding.

The historical Joint Conference of representatives of political parties and social organizations in North and South Korea was held in April, 1948 and the consultative conference of leaders of political parties and social organizations in North and South Korea was convened in June the same year. Both the Joint Conference and consultative conference were the first practical steps to attain the unification of the fatherland by peaceful means, through mutual discussing among the Koreans.

The Joint statement of the political parties and social organizations in North and South Korea issued after the April Joint Conference made it clear that withdrawal of both armies of the Soviet Union and America from Korea was proper measures for settling the Korean question in the situation engendered at that time, and set forth concrete methods of establishing a democratic, unified government in Korea.

Then, the decisions of the United Democratic Fatherland Front and the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, issued in 1949 and 1950, were living examples of the consistent struggle of our Party, the government of our Republic and the United Democratic Fatherland Front which represents the fine patriotic forces of North and South Korea for the peaceful unification of the fatherland.

All the patriotic personages in North and South Korea who wish for the unification, independence and freedom of the fatherland warmly supported the measures for the peaceful unification of Korea and actively participated in the struggle for their realization.

The U.S. imperialist aggressors who continue to occupy South Korea though the Soviet Army withdrew from North Korea as early as in 1948, and the South Korean puppets, who are barely maintaining their regime only

by dint of the U.S. armed forces, met with bayonets the national unification movement of the South Korean people and patriotic personages, and responded to our proposals for the peaceful unification with the armed invasion upon the northern part of our Republic.

The convocation of the political conference for the solution of the post-war Korean issue as stipulated by the armistice agreement, and the efforts for the settlement of the Korean question made at the Foreign Ministers Conference in Geneva went amiss altogether owing to the U.S. ruling circles and the reactionary, traitorous manoeuvre of the South Korean authorities.

Following the Geneva Conference which failed to solve the Korean question, the Eighth Session of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent an appeal to the national assembly, various political parties and social organizations, army and people of South Korea, proposing once again to discuss the questions relating to the unification of Korea; the Central Committee of the United Democratic Fatherland Front as well as various organs and organizations of our Republic proposed time and again to the appropriate organs and organizations of South Korea to take a series of measures for the implementation of the appeal of the Supreme People's Assembly.

The appeal of the Eighth Session of the Supreme People's Assembly enjoyed the wide support not only of the people of the northern part of our Republic, but also among the people of every walk of life in South Korea and even among some members of the national assembly and within the ranks of the puppet army of South Korea.

However, the just proposals repeatedly advanced by us have only met with rebuff from the South Korean government authorities.

In spite of the consistent struglge thus waged by us for the peaceful unification of the fatherland in the past ten years, our fatherland still remains not unified and

the national territory and the nation remain divided till this day, the Tenth Anniversary of liberation.

However, our arduous struggle for the unification of the fatherland during the past ten years after liberation was not in vain. Through this earnest struggle we further illumined the prospect of the unification of the fatherland before the entire people in North and South Korea, and the entire people of North and South Korea extended their support to our proposals.

Even though the unification and independence have not yet been achieved due to the obstructive move of the U.S. imperialists and a handful of reactionary elements led by Syngman Rhee, our cause of peaceful unification and independence will be realized without fail so long as we are enjoying the powerful support of the entire people. (*Prolonged applause.*)

We have been making consistent efforts for the cause of peacefully unifying our homeland over the past ten years, and will continue our unswerving efforts in future as well.

Henceforward, too, our principles and position toward Korea's peaceful unification is clear.

The question of Korea's unification should be settled by the Koreans themselves. To this end, foreign forces should be withdrawn from Korea, and then the people of North and South Korea should gather together, without any interference from abroad, to discuss the Korean question; a unified, democratic, central government should be set up on the basis of the free will of the people of North and South Korea, and then it should be up to those representatives chosen by the people to decide upon the character of the government. This is the unanimous desire of the entire Korean people, and also it is the most fair and just road to the peaceful settlement of the Korean problem.

Only the Syngman Rhee clique who do not want the national unity of our people and unification of our country, and the American imperialists who are forcibly occupying

South Korea, are desperately opposed to the peaceful unification of our fatherland. They launch noisy hullabaloos crying out "march North to unify" instead of Korea's peaceful unification, introduce war materials and perpetrate provocative actions on the military boundary line in flagrant violation of the armistice agreement, and commit violences against the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission. Recently, the South Korean puppets are openly clamouring anew to seize Kaesung and Ongjin areas and the northern shore of the Han River estuary.

Thus they are frenziedly busying themeslves in once again provoking a bloody fratricidal conflict.

It should be clearly understood that our efforts to unify our fatherland through negotiations and mutual understanding is by no means a sign of weakness on our part. Should anyone think in such a way, he would be a very stupid fellow.

It is because we wish, among other things, to get such tremendous sacrifices and sufferings as experienced in the last war not to be repeated to our entire fellow Koreans irrespective of whether they belong to the north or the south and because we should eliminate as soon as possible the misery for our parents, brothers, and families to live apart in the north and the south, as we are of a single nation, that we desire a speedy achievement of the country's unification by peaceful means.

It is especially because we wish, with a view to relieving the South Korean people of their economical straits, namely, to enabling them to use various rich resources such as North Korea's abundant electricity, products of the metal industry, iron and steel, copper and lead, chemical produce, fertilizer, carbide, soda, cement and the inexhaustible coal and other minerals, to eliminate at an earliest possible time the sufferings artificially created to the people of North and South Korea by quickly removing the barriers partitioning the two parts of Korea, thereby facilitating

free movement between the north and the south and free economic and cultural activities.

We should, therefore, further consolidate the achievements ensued from the armistice and, to achieve the peaceful unification of Korea, create conditions for the mutual rapprochement between North and South Korea.

Negotiations between the parliaments of North and South Korea and the movement of people must be effected, and economic, cultural, scientific and art exchanges must be organized, so as to strengthen the relations between the people of North and South Korea and create conditions and climate for mutual understanding.

All this is the job of none other than the Koreans themselves. Should the Korean people themselves, all of them, desire this, who could possibly thwart this design of ours? We consider it the prerequisite to the peaceful unification to strive, first of all, to consolidate the truce.

In order to achieve the peaceful unification of our country, a stable peace in Korea must be guaranteed. The appropriate nations interested in the Korean problem should be urged to assume obligations to exert themselves to settle the Korean issue peacefully and to ensure the prevention of the rivival of war in Korea as well as of any action jeopardizing the preservation of peace in Korea.

We wish the governments of the nations concerned to call, with a view to settling the Korean question by peaceful means, a Far Eastern conference with a broad participation of the Asian countries to work out measures for Korea's peaceful unification.

Since the continued stationing of foreign armed forces in Korea creates an obstacle to the peaceful unification of Korea, those countries which have sent their troops to Korea must immediately take measures for pulling all foreign forces out of Korea.

And we propose that, in order to eliminate the existing distrust and tension, the government authorities both in North and South Korea declare before the Korean people and the peoples of the whole world that each side will not apply any force against the other side and will assume obligations to settle all issues regarding Korea's unification only through peaceful means, and that they cut down to the minimum the numerical strength of the armies of North and South Korea with the object of reducing the burden of military expenditure borne by the people of North and South Korea and turning non-productive labour to the use of peaceful construction.

And taking into account the aspiration of all the Korean people demanding the mutual rapprochement and negotiations between North and South Korea, we assert that efforts be made to call at an earliest possible date a conference of the representatives from the governments of North and South Korea in order to discuss the question of Korea's unification.

On the road to the unification and independence of our fatherland, there are to be found many difficulties and obstacles and already at present are there plenty.

However, whatever difficulties and obstacles there may be, we should continue to endeavour to attain success in this sacred and great cause which is a long-cherished desire of the entire Korean people. By so doing, we are sure to achieve the peaceful unification of our fatherland, conquering whatever obstacles may be created by the reactionary forces.

The whole of our people should further expand and strengthen the United Democratic Fatherland Front which comprises all sections of our society; we are quite ready to embrace, and negotiate with, anyone who should sincerely desire the national unity and the country's unification irrespective of his political opinion, religious belief and

property. Even if he is a man who in the past committed no small crimes against the state and the people, should his deeds, after he had repented his past records, conduce, genuinely in the interests of the country and the people, to the peaceful achievement of the unification and independence of our country, we are prepared to welcome such deeds of his and to negotiate with him.

It is because today all our undertakings and deeds should be wholly subordinated to the aim of achieving by peaceful means Korea's unification and independence which is the greatest task of our people at the moment.

Dear comrades!

International situation of today is being changed favourably for our people to carry out this greatest task of the time.

As a result of the steady fight of the peace-loving forces of the whole world headed by the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, and of the unswerving peace-loving policy of the Soviet Union in particular, international situation of late has been improved to a certain degree.

The realization of ceasefire in Indo-China and the Bandung conference of Afro-Asian countries and the world assembly for peace at Helsinki have been events of great significance in the struggle for peace and peaceful co-existence among divergent systems, against aggression and war; the signing of the Austrian state treaty, the improvement of Soviet-Yugoslav relations, the strengthening of friendly relations between the Soviet Union and India and other events are a step forward in the cause of world peace and security of the peoples.

Especially, the conference of the heads of government of the Four Powers convened at Geneva last month was an important event contributing to the lessening of international tension and the cause of world peace. That is why our people, together with the peace-loving peoples of the

whole world have hailed this conference warmly and hope its decisions to be materialised.

In such international situation developing in favour of the interests of peace, we will further strengthen ties of friendship with the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China and other People's Democracies, and continue fighting more energetically for a lasting peace of the world, for the realization of the peaceful unification and independence of our country which is a sublime aim of our people.

Dear comrades!

Our people, summing up with great satisfaction the results of their labour and struggle during the ten years after liberation, are firmly determined to further intensify their devoted struggle for still greater successes and victories in days ahead.

Rallying more closely around the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of our Republic, under the correct leadership of the Party, let us, all the people of Korea, march forward courageously, toward fresh victories in the building of Socialism, with a view to achieving the peaceful unification of our fatherland. (*Loud applause.*)

1. Long live the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of our Republic, organizers and leaders of our victories! (*All rise. Prolonged applause.*)

2. Long live the United Democratic Fatherland Front! (*All rise. Applause.*)

3. Long live the indestructible, internationalist friendship and unity of the peoples of the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism headed by the great Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China! (*All rise. Applause.*)

4. Glory to our beloved fatherland — the Democratic People's Republic of Korea! (*Prolonged applause.*)

Document generated by Anna’s Archive around 2023-2024 as part of the DuXiu collection (https://annas-blog.org/duxiu-exclusive.html).

Images have been losslessly embedded. Information about the original file can be found in PDF attachments. Some stats (more in the PDF attachments):

{
  "filename": "NDAyMTk3NDdfVEVOVEggQU5OSVZFUlNBUlkgT0YgVEhFIExJQkVSQVRJT04gT0YgS09SUFfcDMyLnppcA==",
  "filename_decoded": "40219747_TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF KOREA_p32.zip",
  "filesize": 5786849,
  "md5": "782c310bc753924ba55deb76bfa45572",
  "header_md5": "f134c7195bbb02aeaf5e1328d89f7af7",
  "sha1": "896fa27339f07b63857741b847f53fd244b7c837",
  "sha256": "277068005ec2b63178f161452d3501a502817eb7420f2ab8be88d7f28c9652b1",
  "crc32": 2978271131,
  "zip_password": "6622Ee",
  "uncompressed_size": 5777215,
  "pdg_dir_name": "40219747_TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF KOREA_p32",
  "pdg_main_pages_found": 32,
  "pdg_main_pages_max": 32,
  "total_pages": 34,
  "total_pixels": 109933825,
  "pdf_generation_missing_pages": false
}